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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RIALTO SQUARE THEATRE

Announces Lead Gift For New Hospitality Suite

Joliet - The Rialto Square Theatre unveiled plans for the first addition to the historic theatre in its 80 year history at a reception on Friday evening November 30th. The event, hosted by the Will County Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority, was highlighted by the announcement of a lead gift from The Lambrecht Family Foundation made by the foundation president Patricia Lambrecht.

“The Lambrecht Family Foundation is pleased to announce plans for a new Hospitality Suite to be built in memory of Tom Lambrecht. In addition to being a wonderful husband, father and friend, Tom was also a great community leader. Tom cared about the growth and vitality of Joliet but also understood the importance of preserving history. The creation of this intimate gathering space offers new opportunities for Rialto patrons while maintaining the theatre’s one of a kind opulence.” explain Patricia Lambrecht.

The Lambrecht Family Foundation supports, as part of its overall mission, “...community programs and projects that enrich the quality of life and have the potential to make a significant difference in people’s lives.”

“The gift is in support of a new hospitality suite to be constructed adjacent to the Rialto’s Rotunda and will provide a much needed space to better serve patrons of the Rialto” explains Randall Green the theatre’s General Manager. “But more importantly, the project will provide elevator service

not only to the suite level but to the balcony level as well.” “This is probably the most important project of our capital campaign and we are grateful for the leadership provided by Patti and her family.”

In recognition of this gift, the Will County Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority, which governs the Rialto Square Theatre, has unanimously agreed to identify this new hospitality suite as the “*LAMBRECHT FAMILY FOUNDATION HOSPITALITY SUITE*” with naming rights for ten years following completion of the project.

“I have many fond memories of coming to see movies at the Rialto Square Theatre on weekends as a child.” comments Lambrecht. “I am delighted that the Rialto continues to serve the community today by providing quality entertainment to children and families throughout Will County and the surrounding areas.”

ARRIS Architects + Planners of Plainfield have been selected by the Will County Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority as the architectural firm to design the new hospitality suites. Michael A. Lambert, Principal Architect with ARRIS with more than twenty-five years of experience in the field of historic preservation, is well-known for his expertise restoring, renovating, and developing sensitive additions to historic buildings throughout the area. Completed restoration and renovation projects have included museums, churches, train depots, commercial buildings, agricultural structures, and private residences—many listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The \$1.5 million renovation project will maintain all of the historic grandeur for which the majestic theatre and lobby are known. The new reception rooms will occupy the former, private business suites of the six Rubens brothers, who constructed the Rialto Theatre in 1926.

Specifically, the project includes two, distinct reception rooms suitable for pre-show, intermission, and post-show entertaining including private parties, artist “meet and greets,” corporate receptions, and theatre-related social events. The suites are proposed to accommodate between 25 and 175 guests who can access the private rooms from a new elevator which can be accessed from a separate lobby off the historic rotunda. The elevator, also, will provide access to the balcony level of the historic theatre itself for all Rialto patrons. To complete the renovation, private restrooms; separate service kitchens; and expanded catering support spaces will be provided to serve the hospitality suite.

For more information about this project or the Campaign to Polish the Jewel of Joliet, please contact Tina Postel, the Rialto’s Director of Development, at (815) 726-7171 extension 206.

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